EXHIBIT A
LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS AND AMENDMENTS
(10-28-2005)

Amendment to the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended)

1. A clip assembly for sheet materials comprising:

a clip member defining a hinge portion, first and second finger portions extending from the hinge portion, ~~and~~ a ratchet portion formed on at least one of the first and second finger portions, where

the clip member is made of resilient material such that the clip member may be deformed from a normally open configuration into a closed position, and

the first and second finger portions do not engage each other when the clip member is in the open configuration and the first and second finger portions engage each other when the clip member is in the closed position; and

a collar member defining a latch portion, a lever portion, a latch opening, and a housing interior, where

the collar member is made of resilient material such that applying a force to the lever portion causes the collar member to deform from a normally engaged configuration to a disengaged configuration, and

the latch portion extends into the housing interior through the latch opening when the collar member is in the engaged configuration and is withdrawn from the housing interior through the latch opening when the collar member is in the disengaged configuration; and

a stop projection formed on at least one of the clip member and the collar member; whereby

the clip member extends through the housing interior such that

when the collar member is in a first position relative to the clip member, the clip member is in the open configuration;

when the collar member is in a second position relative to the clip member, the collar member acts on the clip member to place the clip member in the closed configuration; ~~and~~

when the collar member is in the engaged configuration, the latch portion engages the ratchet portion to allow movement of the collar member towards the second position and inhibit movement of the collar member towards the first position;~~, and~~

when the collar member is in the disengaged configuration, the collar member may move between the first and second positions; and

the stop projection is configured to allow the clip member to extend through the collar member for movement between the first and second positions but inhibits inadvertent movement of the clip member relative to the collar member beyond the first position in a direction from the second position towards the first position.

Claim 2 (previously amended)

2. A clip assembly as recited in claim 1, in which:

the collar member further comprises a belt portion; and

the first and second finger portions define first and second gripping portions, respectively; whereby

when the collar member is in the second position, the belt portion extends around the first and second finger portions at a location adjacent to the first and second gripping portions.

Claim 3 (previously amended)

3. A clip assembly as recited in claim 1, in which:

the first and second finger portions define first and second gripping portions, respectively; and

at least one of the first and second gripping portions defines a line notch adapted to receive an edge line of the sheet material.

Claim 4 (previously amended)

4. A clip assembly as recited in claim 1, in which:

the first and second finger portions define first and second gripping portions, respectively;

at least one of the first and second gripping portions defines a line notch adapted

to receive an edge line of the sheet material; and

at least one of the first and second gripping portions defines a line tooth; whereby

the line tooth defines at least a portion of a line projection adapted to engage the edge line of the sheet material.

Claim 5 (previously canceled)

Claim 6 (previously amended)

6. A clip assembly as recited in claim 1, in which:

the first and second finger portions define first and second gripping portions, respectively;

the first and second gripping portions define first and second sets of gripping teeth, where the gripping teeth each define first and second slanted surfaces and teeth points; whereby

when the clip member is in the closed configuration, at least some of the teeth points of the teeth in the first set engage slanted surfaces of the teeth in the second set.

Claim 7 (previously amended)

7. A clip assembly as recited in claim 1, in which:

the first and second finger portions define first and second gripping portions, respectively;

the first and second gripping portions define first and second sets of gripping teeth, where the gripping teeth are curved; whereby

when the clip member is in the closed configuration, the gripping teeth engage the sheet material.

Claim 8 (currently amended)

8. A method of gripping sheet materials comprising the steps of:

providing a clip member made of resilient material and defining a hinge portion, first and second finger portions extending from the hinge portion, and a ratchet portion;

providing a collar member made of resilient material and defining a latch portion,

a lever portion, a latch opening, and a housing interior;

arranging the clip member within the housing interior of the collar member such that the collar member may be in first and second positions relative to the clip member, where, when the collar member is in the first position, the clip member is in an open configuration in which the first and second finger portions are not forced towards each other and, when the collar member is in the second position, the collar member forces the first and second finger portions towards each other to place the clip member in a closed configuration;

configuring the collar member such that the collar member is normally in an engaged configuration in which the latch portion extends into the housing interior through the latch opening and applying a force on the lever portion of the collar member places the collar member in a disengaged configuration in which the latch portion is withdrawn from the housing interior through the latch opening;

arranging the sheet material between the first and second finger portions; ~~and~~

placing the clip member in the second position and the latch portion in the engaged configuration such that latch portion engages ratchet portion and the first and second finger portions grip the sheet material; and

arranging a stop projection on at least one of the clip member and the collar member such that the stop projection allows the clip member to extend through the collar member for movement between the first and second positions but inhibits inadvertent movement of the clip member relative to the collar member beyond the first position in a direction from the second position towards the first position.

Claim 9 (currently amended)

9. A method as recited in claim 8, further comprising the steps ~~of:~~

placing the latch portion in the disengaged configuration such that the latch portion does not engage the ratchet portion; and

releasing the sheet material by moving the collar member into the first position to allow the first and second finger portions to move away from each other.

Claim 10 (original)

10. A method as recited in claim 9, further comprising the steps of forming first and second gripping portions, respectively.

Claim 11 (currently amended)

11. A method as recited in claim 10, further comprising the steps of forming a line notch ~~is~~ adapted to receive an edge line of the sheet material on at least one of the first and second gripping portions.

Claim 12 (original)

12. A method as recited in claim 10, further comprising the step of forming first and second sets of gripping teeth on the first and second gripping portions, respectively.

Claim 13 (original)

13. A method as recited in claim 10, further comprising the step of forming first and second sets of curved gripping teeth on the first and second gripping portions, respectively.

Claim 14 (previously new)

14. A clip for sheet materials comprising:

a clip member defining a hinge portion, first and second finger portions extending from the hinge portion, and a ratchet portion formed on at least one of the first and second finger portions, where

the clip member is made of resilient material such that the clip member may be deformed from a normally open configuration into a closed position, and

the first and second finger portions do not engage each other when the clip member is in the open configuration and the first and second finger portions engage each other when the clip member is in the closed position; and

a collar member defining a latch portion, a lever portion, a latch opening, and a housing interior, where

the collar member is made of resilient material such that applying a force

to the lever portion causes the collar member to deform from a normally engaged configuration to a disengaged configuration, and

the latch portion extends into the housing interior through the latch opening when the collar member is in the engaged configuration and is withdrawn from the housing interior through the latch opening when the collar member is in the disengaged configuration; whereby

the clip member extends through the housing interior such that

when the collar member is in a first position relative to the clip member, the clip member is in the open configuration;

when the collar member is in a second position relative to the clip member, the collar member acts on the clip member to place the clip member in the closed configuration; and

when the collar member is in the engaged configuration, the latch portion engages the ratchet portion to allow movement of the collar member towards the second position and inhibit movement of the collar member towards the first position, and

when the collar member is in the disengaged configuration, the collar member may move between the first and second positions; and

the first and second finger portions define first and second gripping portions, respectively;

at least one of the first and second gripping portions defines a line notch adapted to receive an edge line of the sheet material; and

at least one of the first and second gripping portions defines a line tooth; whereby

the line tooth defines at least a portion of a line projection adapted to engage the edge line of the sheet material;

the first and second gripping portions define first and second line notches, respectively;

the first and second gripping portions define first and second line teeth, respectively; and

the first and second line teeth define a line projection adapted to engage the edge line of the sheet material.